

**AMHARA ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA (AAA)
ADVOCACY BRIEFING & PATH
FORWARD FOR AMHARA
COMMUNITY**

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Introduction of Panelists

- Tewodrose (Ted) Tirfe, Chairman, AAA
- Robel Alemu, Director of Communications, AAA
- Rediet Tefera, Director of Community Engagement, AAA
- Cameron Wheeler, Director of Government Relations, Lobbyit
- Jonathan Taylor, Director of Government Relations, Lobbyit



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Agenda

- **Ambassador Mike Hammer**, United States Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa
- Recap of 2022 Advocacy Accomplishments
- Highlight of Meetings with Congress & State in 2023
- Review of non-Ethiopian media appearances & Interviews
- Review of Engagement with International Human Rights Orgs
- Challenges & Path forward with Advocacy



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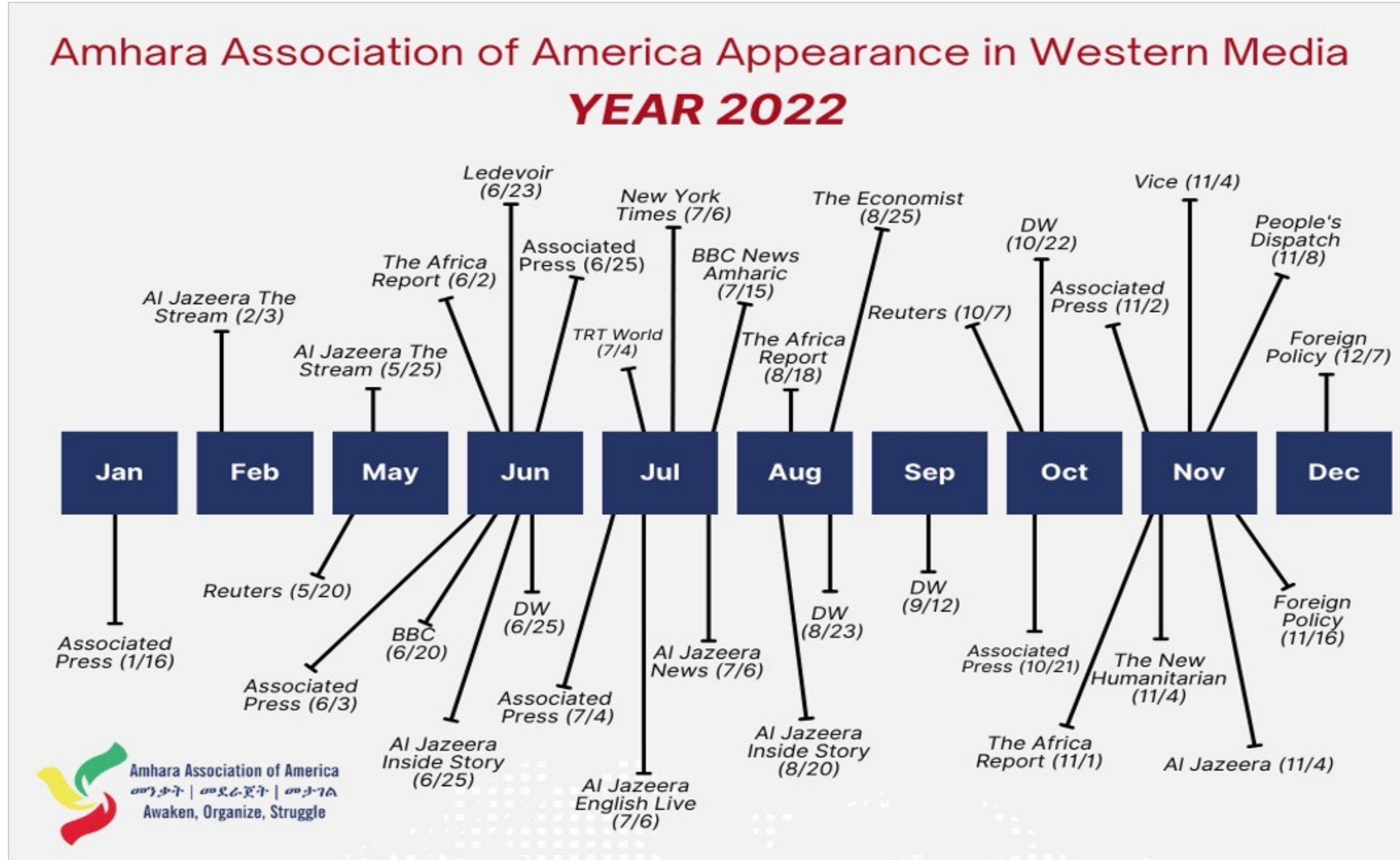


Introduction of Ambassador Mike Hammer

Ambassador Mike Hammer, United States
Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa

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2022 Media Appearances & Interviews



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2022 Notable Quotes



Amhara Association of America
 መንቃት | መደራጀት | መታገል
 Awaken, Organize, Struggle

AMHARA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA IMPORTANT QUOTES IN WESTERN MEDIA

20
22

"The Amhara Association of America, another rights group, counted more than 1,600 Amhara civilians murdered & wounded last year by the OLA."

The Economist, 2022

"The Amhara Association of America, which has probed rights violations against Ethiopia's Amhara people throughout the war, welcomed the peace deal but warned it would oppose any initiative to return disputed territory to Tigray."

Al Jazeera, 2022

AAA's Director of Communications Robel Alemu on the Amhara perspective in peace talks and the ongoing situation in Oromia Region: 'the peace process with the TPLF "lacked inclusivity," which could ultimately be its undoing...[in Oromia Region] residents have reported a deliberate and "concerted effort by the OLA and elements within the Oromia regional government to ethnically cleanse Amharas" from the region.'

Foreign Policy, 2022

"I believe Abiy is doing this to scare Amharas into accepting whatever deal he may try to reach with TPLF," said Hone Mandefro of Amhara Association of America. "He is probably doing this to weaken the capacity of Amharas to resist him should he decide to switch sides & fight Amharas with the TPLF..."

The Africa Report, 2022

"An advocacy group, the Amhara Association of America, puts the death toll at 378 and says it has identified 176 victims by name."

BBC, 2022

"...the Amhara Association of America recently accused TPLF forces of dozens of rapes and killings in parts of the Amhara region in August and September."

The New Humanitarian, 2022

"[AAA]በተለያዩ የአገሪቱ ክፍሎች ጥቃት የሚደርስባቸው የአማራ ተወላጆችን ድምፅ በማስተጋባት ይታወቃል። ማኅበሩ መንግሥትም ሆነ የአድሞ ነፃነት ሠራዊት ለጥቃቱ ተጠያቂ ናቸው ይላል። "የማኅበሩ ተጠሪዎች እንዲሁ የሆነት እቶ ሆነ ማንደፍሮ ጥቃቶቹ ብሔር ተኮር ናቸው ሲሉ ለቢቢሲ ይናገራሉ። ማኅበሩ በቅርቡ ባወጣው መግለጫ "የአማራ ተወላጆች ላይ ጭፍጨፋ እየተፈፀመ ያለው በአፓርታይድ ብሔር ተኮር ፊደራሊዝም ምክንያት ነው።"

BBC News Amharic, 2022

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2022 Meetings with Congressional Offices



50
Meetings

37
U.S. Government
Officials

\$60K
Spent on Lobbying

20
22

AAA held over **50** meetings with **37** U. S. Government officials including Congressional Offices and State Department Officials and spent over **\$60K** on lobbying in 2022 to educate and inform Members about #AmharaGenocide and advocate for policy to end the ongoing genocide, accountability & justice.

CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES

- 1) Sen. Booker (NJ)
- 2) Sen. Coons (DE)
- 3) Rep. Sara Jacobs (CA)
- 4) Rep. Ilhan Omar (MN)
- 5) Rep. Chris Smith (NJ)
- 6) Rep. Ronny Jackson
- 7) Rep. Ami Bera (CA)
- 8) Sen. Tim Kaine (VA)
- 9) Rep. Malinowski (NJ)
- 10) Rep. Karen Bass (CA)
- 11) Rep. Miller Meeks (IA)
- 12) Sen. Marsha Blackburn (TN)
- 13) Sen. Capito (WV)
- 14) Sen. Murray (WA)
- 15) Sen. Jon Ossoff (GA)
- 16) Sen. Markey (MA)
- 17) Sen. Warnock (GA)

CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES

- 18) Rep. Jayapal (WA)
- 19) Sen. Tillis (NC)
- 20) Rep. Roybal-Allard (CA)
- 21) Rep. Steny Hoyer (MD)
- 22) Rep. Adam Smith (WA)
- 23) Rep. Kevin Brady (TX)
- 24) Sen. Tammy Duckworth (IL)
- 25) Rep. Levin (CA)
- 26) Rep. Larsen (WA)
- 27) Rep. Jamie Raskin (MD)
- 28) Rep. Quigley (IL)
- 29) Rep. Mark Veasey (TX)
- 30) Sen. Dick Durbin (IL)
- 31) Rep. Scott Peters (CA)
- 32) Sen. Bob Menendez (NJ)
- 33) Rep. Gregory Meeks (NY)
- 34) Rep. Don Beyer (VA)

STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS

- 1) Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary (PDAS) Ervin Massinga
- 2) Special Envoy for Horn of Africa, Ambassador Mike Hammer
- 3) Ethiopian Desk Officer

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2023 State Department Meetings

- Sept. 28 Debrief with Ambassador Hammer
- Aug. 17 Meeting b/t Amhara diaspora leaders & State Officials
- July 21-22 Ethiopian Diaspora Peace Conference; UC San Diego
- May 15 Town Hall Meeting b/t SEHOA & Amhara community in Los Angeles
- Continuous engagement with Ethiopian Desk Officer



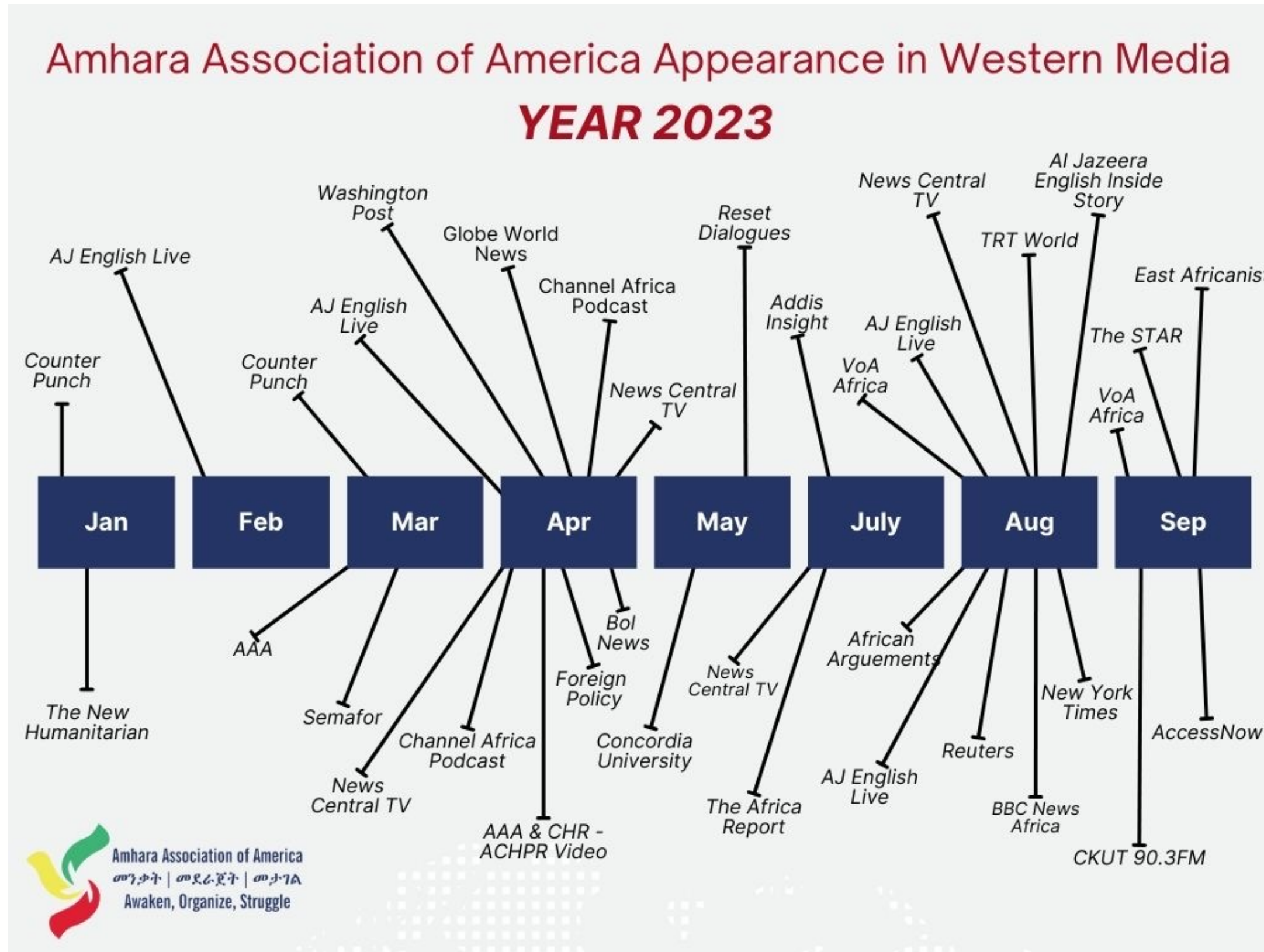
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2023 Meetings with Congressional Offices



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2023 Media Appearances & Interviews



2023 Notable Quotes

- **Foreign Policy - April 12, 2023**
 - “Amharas cannot be expected to abide by any outcome of a negotiations process from which they think they are excluded,” Tewodrose Tirfe, the chairman of the Amhara Association of America, [said](#) at the time.
- **Reuters - August 8, 2023**
 - “The Fano, with the support of farmers and Amhara public will attempt to defeat the federal security forces and their alliance and ultimately remove Abiy from power,” said Tewodrose Tirfe, chairman of the Amhara Association of America, a lobby group that supports the Fano cause.
- **Reset Dialogues - May 3, 2023**
 - “I would not call this peace”, [says AAA Director Robel Alemu](#), explaining that while the peace deal was being negotiated, severe violence was on-going in the Oromo region, involving the collaboration between the Oromia special forces, the Oromo Liberation Army as well as the country’s national army targeting the Amharas.

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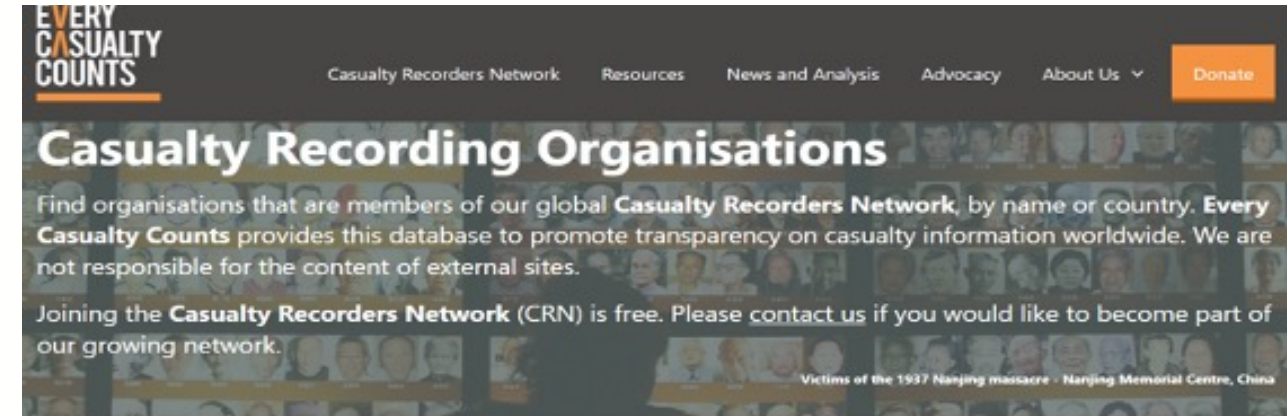
HUMAN RIGHTS ENGAGEMENT ...

- Feb 6. - AAA & CHR file Legal [Complaint](#) with African Union, African Commission for Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) - "The complaint is made on behalf of ethnic Amhara residents in West Wollega, East Wollega, Horo Guduru Wollega, Qelem Wollega and West Shewa Zones of the Oromia Region who faced mass atrocities at the hand of state and non-state armed forces and militias."
- Watch the joint [AAA & CHR video](#) on the complaint
- Oct. 19 - AAA team in Arusha, Tanzania for 77th Annual ACHPR meeting to present on "Genocidal Violence against Amharas in Ethiopia: Structural Causes and Impediments to Accountability".



HUMAN RIGHTS ENGAGEMENT ...

- AAA in collab with [Every Casualty Counts](#) presented an oral [intervention](#) at 52nd Session of UN Human Rights Council
- Multiple meetings with International Commission on Human Rights Experts in Ethiopia (ICHREE) and submission of reports
- AAA, APU, & 44 civic orgs release a [statement](#) to restore Internet in Amhara Region as part of [AccessNow](#) #KeepItOn campaign
- Meeting with Doctors Without Borders - provide health support in Amhara Region



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On the Ground Investigation



- How are investigations conducted
- Who is the audience
- How do we use the reports
- Challenges to investigations
- Example of reports: click [here](#) and [here](#).



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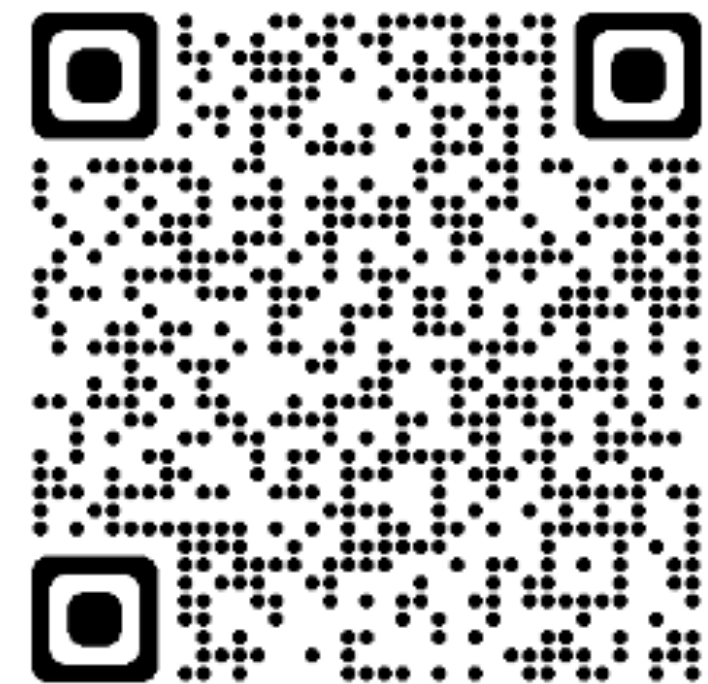
Path to Overcoming Challenges in Advocacy



- Challenges
 - Lack of collective advocacy – orgs & individuals
 - Challenging landscape
 - Resource constraints \$\$
- Path to Overcoming
 - Everyone must be an advocate
 - Invest in advocacy

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Thank you



Question & Answer Session

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CONTACT US



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LobbyIT



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Amhara Association of America